

Fence

Non-Electric HT Fence

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Code 382(d)



Definition

A constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife, or people.

Purpose

This job sheet is provided as a component of a resource conservation plan. This practice may be applied to contain and control livestock and wildlife movement, facilitate a prescribed grazing system, protect sensitive areas from grazing livestock, and to eliminate access to unsafe areas.

Conditions where Practice Applies

This practice may be used on any area where a fence is needed to control access, movement and

containment of livestock and wildlife, and where people safety and movement is of concern. Conservation plan maps showing the approximate fence location, complementary conservation practices, grazing schedule, other relevant information, and additional specifications may be included.

General Criteria and Specifications

All fence construction shall comply with federal, state and local fencing codes.

Fence line clearing

Fence lines will be cleared of brush and trees; gullies and steep banks may require grading. Clearing along stream banks will be held to a minimum and no vegetation may be removed within the buffer area, except as required for stream crossings.

Fencing materials shall be of a quality and durability that meets the intended management objectives. Construction shall be performed in a manner that meets the intended management objective. Wire and hardware will be new, galvanized material.

Line posts

Maximum spacing between line posts is 12 feet. All wooden line posts shall be set at least 24 inches into the ground.

Suitable line posts

3½" diameter wooden posts of black locust, red cedar (mostly heartwood), redwood, and pressure treated pine or other wood of equal life and strength. Pressure treatment shall meet the requirements for ground contact. All wooden line posts shall be set at least 24" into the ground.

Note: Landscaping timbers should not be used for post or brace assemblies.

Steel posts must be new and be painted or galvanized and weigh a minimum of 1.25 pounds per one foot of length. Post will be driven 18" in the ground or as specified by manufacturer. Every 5th post must be wooden.

The following steel posts are acceptable for line posts:

Style 1 – "T" Section 1-3/8" x 1-3/8" x 1/8" thick

Style 2 – "U" Section 2" x 1-1/4" x 3/32"

Style 3 – "L" Section 2" x 2" x 1/4"

Lightweight stamped-steel posts are not allowed.

Brace posts: Posts shall be set and maintained in a vertical position. All wooden brace posts are to be 6" min. diameter and set 3 feet into the ground. Horizontal brace rails are to be 4" min. diameter wooden or 2" steel by 8 feet long and be installed 8"–12" below the top of the vertical brace post.

Note: Landscaping timbers should not be used for post or brace assemblies.

Corners and braces: Refer to drawings on page 7 through 9 for fence brace configurations and spacing.

Single H braces: Single H Brace corners and end braces may only be installed at the ends of straight fence spans of 660 feet or less.

Double H braces: All corners, fence line ends, and gate openings require Double H Brace assemblies, except that Single H Braces may be substituted in straight fence spans of 660 feet or less.

Double H brace pull assemblies: In-Line Double H Brace Pull Assemblies are required as wire-pull breaks in straight fence spans longer than 1320 feet. Spans between braces should be shorter over undulating or soft ground. Pull assemblies should be evenly spaced along the fence span. Fence wires must terminate from the farthest brace post in each direction as shown on the drawings.

Gates: Each gate must be hung from an opposing brace assembly.

Adjoining fences: A fence adjoining an existing fence must terminate in a brace assembly as required above.

Corners: A bend in the fence tighter than 20 degrees is considered a corner and not a "straight" pull brace. (In an 8-foot long brace section, 20 degrees is approx. 3 feet off the straight line. Refer to drawings). The above H brace rules apply to corners, considering each wire-pull direction from the corner post. Combination single and double H corners are permitted.

If hand set, all backfilled material shall be thoroughly tamped in 4" layers. Post holes shall be at least 6" larger than the diameter or side dimension of the posts. Synthetic posts, if approved by the Area Resource Conservationist, are to be installed as specified by the manufacturer.

If concrete backfill is used, the concrete must be pre-mixed and worked into place up to the ground surface. No stress shall be applied to posts set in concrete for at least 24 hours after the concrete has set.

Wire

Fence wire shall be 12½ gauge, 130,000 PSI tensile strength minimum, with Class 3 galvanizing meeting ASTM A854.

Wire tension

In-line wire tensioners (strainers) will be used on each pull of each wire. Each fence wire shall be maintained at a tension of 200 pounds for large livestock. This is the tension required to compress the tensioning springs. For smaller animals, use 300 pounds for sheep and hair goats, and 400 pounds where wild animal pressure is likely. Use galvanized fence springs on the wires where there is a threat from trees or excessive animal pressure.

Attaching fencing to post

The fencing wire shall be placed on the livestock side of line posts and on the outside of corners and posts in bends and braces in bends or suspended from the inside of corner posts using ceramic donuts, as with electric high tensile fence, with 2 loops of high tensile wire stapled around the post. Wires will be attached to line posts by a method that allows them to slip. Stays will be attached to wires in a manner that prevents stay slippage along the fence. Splicing of high tensile wire will be accomplished by double-crimped sleeves or “figure 8 knots”. High tensile wire is tied off using donut insulators and secured using the “thread through method” (a half hitch and 3 wraps) or with double-crimped sleeves.

For wooden posts, each strand of wire shall be attached to each post using 9-gauge galvanized 1½” staples driven diagonally with the grain of the wood and at a slight downward angle (except in dips).

For steel line posts, the fencing shall be fastened with either two turns of 14 gauge galvanized steel wire or the post manufacturer’s special wire clips.

Wire placement

All wires are to be spaced according to Table 1 of the VA Conservation Practice Standard, *Fence* (382).

Stays or battens

Stays (Battens): Stays shall be ½” in diameter or 1” non-metallic T Post. (1½”x1½” non-conductive wood may be used.) Stay length shall be sufficient to support all fence wires while maintaining correct wire spacing. All stays shall be non-metallic and shall be secured to wires to maintain stay spacing. Stays will be placed every 15 feet if posts are over 30 feet apart.

Other considerations

Approved alternative fence systems include “Common Sense Fence” or other equivalent fencing systems approved by an NRCS Area Resource Conservationist (ARC) and installed to manufacturer’s recommendation as approved by Area ARC.

Alternative fencing and bracing systems: Alternative fencing and bracing systems must be pre-approved by an NRCS Area Resource Conservationist (ARC) and installed according to manufacturer’s recommendations as approved by Area ARC.

Fences across gullies or streams require special braces and design. Breakaway fences or swinging water gaps allow debris and water to flow past the fence line without destroying the adjacent fence.

Any permanent fencing for grazing livestock should allow flexibility to facilitate implementation of the grazing plan and permit land management activities such as nutrient application, pest control, forage harvest, and other appropriate practices.

Follow all manufacturers’ safety precautions for handling and installing fencing materials.

Locate fences to facilitate maintenance. Where applicable, clear right of ways should be established and maintained to facilitate fence construction and maintenance.

When possible, install fences across slopes to improve grazing distribution, rainfall infiltration and reduce soil erosion.

Locate fences to facilitate livestock management, handling, watering and feeding.

Consider placing riparian stream fencing at the edge of the protected buffer or at least 2 times the active channel width from the top of the stream bank but never less than 10 feet. It is recommended that the stream fence have a maintenance gate installed.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions may be contained in the conservation plan or other acceptable form of documentation. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See Conservation Practice Standard *Fence* (382).

Client:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Planned By:	Location:
Date:	Length of Fence:
Landowner Objectives:	

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce erosion and improve water quality by controlling livestock access to streams, springs, wetlands, and ponds.	<input type="checkbox"/> Protect sensitive environmental areas and the flora from vehicular, pedestrian, or animal traffic use.
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect newly planted areas from disturbance until established.	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve distribution and timing of livestock grazing.
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate handling, movement, and feeding of livestock in the pasture environment.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

Fence type Non Electric High Tensile				
Use	Strand spacing	Stays required @ spacing	Fence height	Tension required
Boundary				
Access Lane				
Interior Subdivision				
Stream Exclusion				

Posts		
Type Black locust OR Eastern red cedar OR pressure treated pine or other preservative treated wood* <div style="text-align: center;">OR</div> standard steel line posts with every 5 th post to be wooden.	Size Line posts are wood 6½ feet or longer. 3½" minimum diameter <div style="text-align: center;">OR</div> standard steel line post 1⅜" x 1⅜" x 1/8" with anchor plate.	Spacing Wood line posts and steel line posts spaced at 12 feet. Set wood post 2 feet deep minimum and set metal post to top of anchor plate or 18" every 50 feet or 5 th post to be wooden.

Braces, Corner, End, Gate	
Post and Braces (8 feet minimum length) 6" diameter at small end horizontal brace rails 4" minimum*	Brace Wire High tensile, galvanized steel, 9 gauge <div style="text-align: center;">OR</div> 12½ gauge high tensile, galvanized, double wrapped

*Landscaping timbers should not be used.

Operation and Maintenance
Inspections and maintenance are required to achieve the intended function, benefits, and life of the practice. The landowner/operator is responsible to establish and implement an inspection and maintenance program. Regular inspection of fences should be part of an ongoing maintenance program. Items to inspect and maintain during the 20-year design life of the practice include, but are not limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inspection of fences after storm events is necessary to ensure the continued proper function of the fence. Promptly repair or replace damaged or broken fencing.2. Retain and properly discard all broken fencing material and hardware to prevent ingestion by animals or injury to equipment, people, or animals.3. Remove debris collected in the fencing.4. Clear the brush from fence lines to reduce voltage loss. Vegetative control can be achieved by herbicides applied per the manufacturer's label.5. Remove fallen limbs and maintain proper tension on the fence wires. Overhanging trees and limbs should be trimmed or removed as needed.6. Maintain proper tension on the fence wires.7. Follow your grazing plan, where appropriate.8. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews. Other:

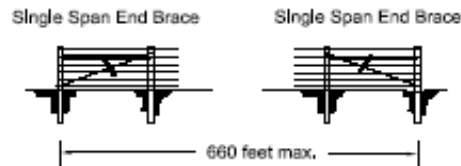
For information regarding this practice contact:

_____ at _____

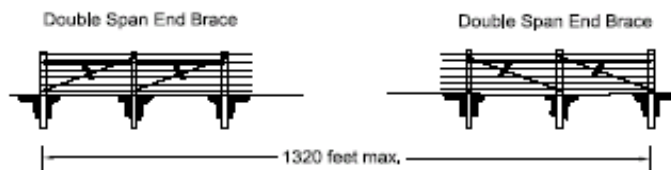
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HIGH TENSILE SMOOTH WIRE FENCE SPACING FOR BRACE ASSEMBLIES

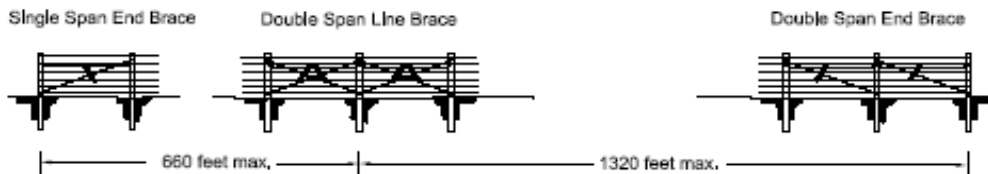
1. Use single span brace assemblies for runs of fence that are less than 660 feet between corner, end, and/or gate posts.



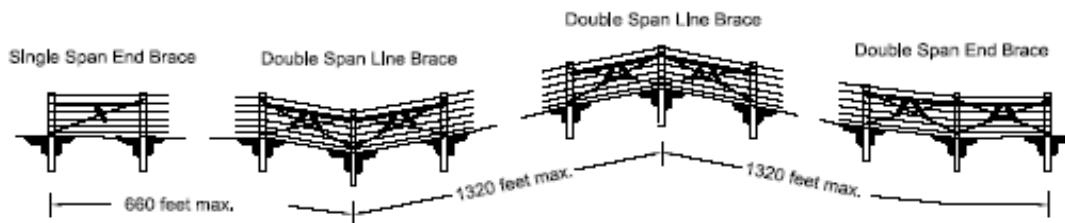
2. Use double span brace assemblies for runs of fence that are 660 to 1320 feet between corner, end, and/or gate posts.



3. Use line braces to divide fence lengths where runs of fence are more than 1320 feet long. A run is the distance between a corner, end or gate post and the next corner, end, or gate post.

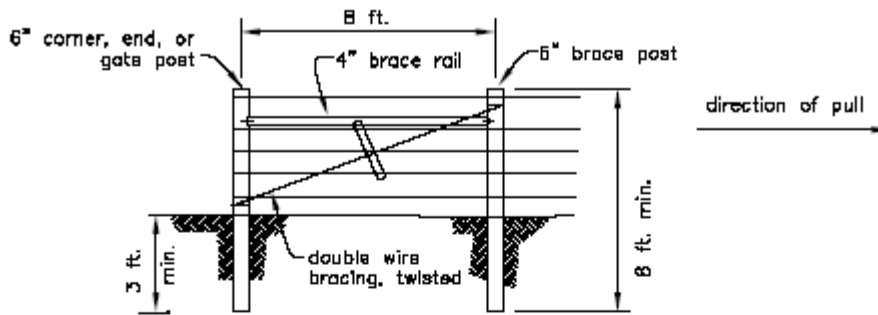


4. On uneven terrain, locate line braces at the top and bottom of each hill.

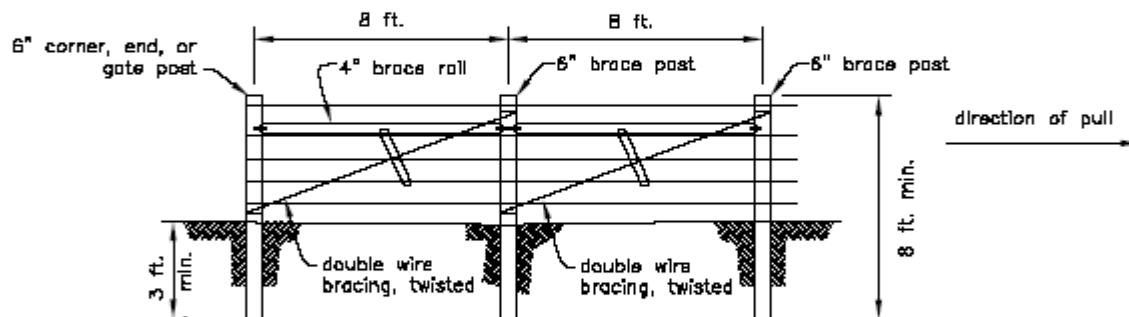


Drawing not to scale. Standardized drawing must be adapted to the specific site.

HIGH TENSILE SMOOTH WIRE FENCE BRACES



SINGLE SPAN BRACE ASSEMBLY



DOUBLE SPAN BRACE ASSEMBLY

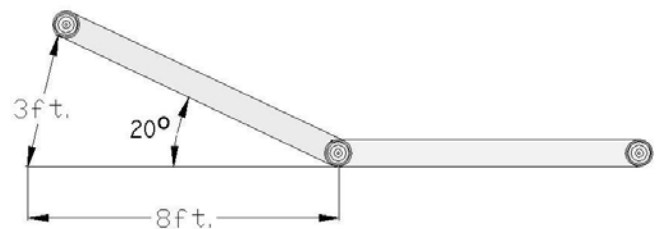
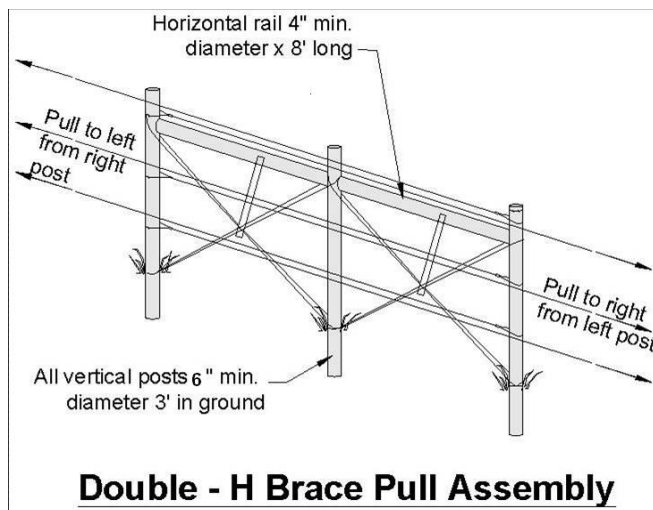
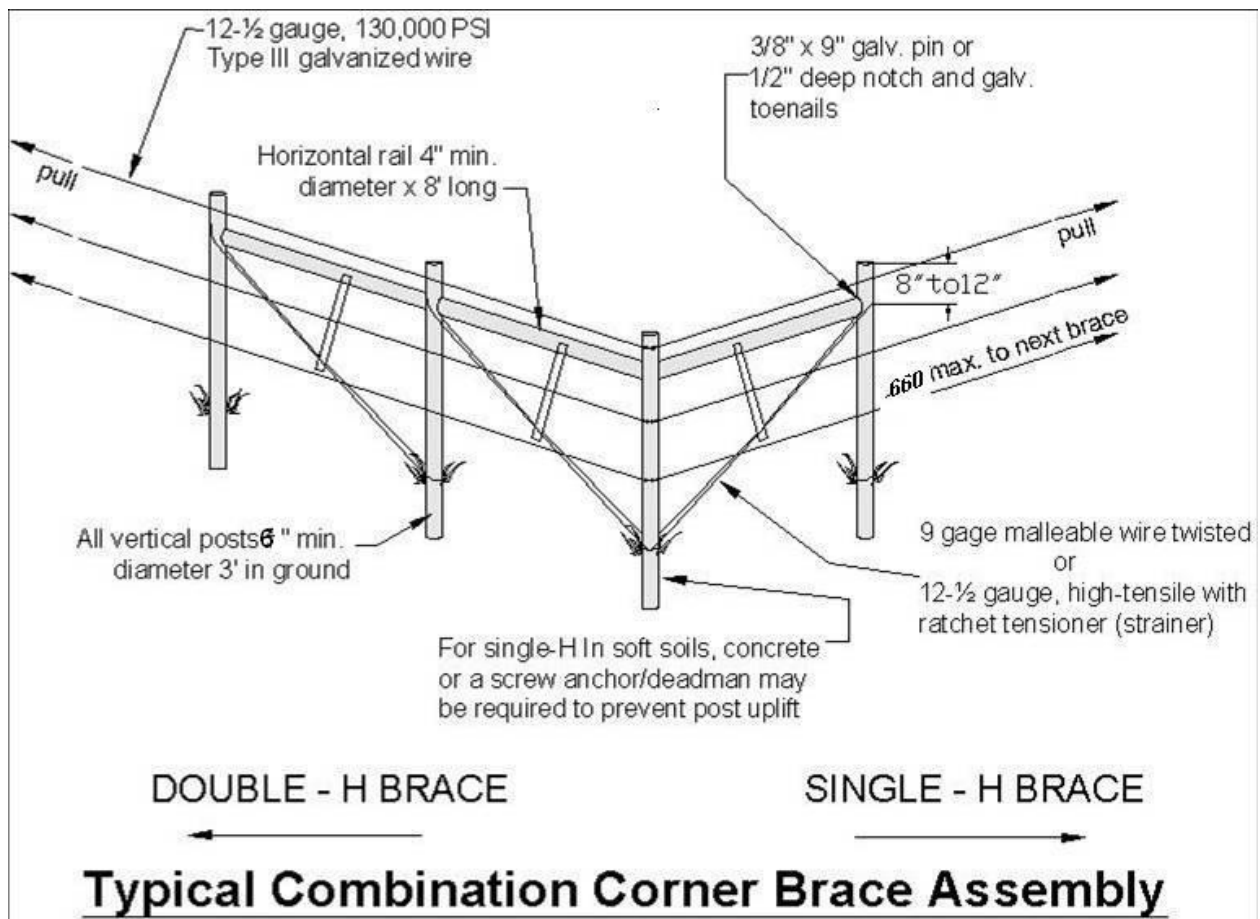
All brace, corner, end, and gate posts: min. 6 in. diameter.

Steel horizontal brace rails min. 2 in. diameter. Wood horizontal brace rails min. 4 in. diameter.

SPECIES AND TREATMENT FOR ALL WOOD: Use untreated durable posts of species such as red cedar, black locust or osage—orange with bark removed, or non-durable wood that is preservative pressure treated (0.40 lbs./cubic foot CCA, or equivalent non-CCA treatment). Do not use red pine.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Drawing not to scale. Standardized drawing must be adapted to the specific site.



Top View of Fence Brace Showing Minimum Angle to be Considered a Corner